

trial of Justice Chase had sorely wounded him. in his most vulnerable point—his vanity. Jefferson affected to despise his opposition on the ground of his well known unreliability and vacillation, but it can hardly be doubted that the President at first looked with real alarm upon this defection. It was the first to occur, after a whole administration of concord; and its head was the former administrative leader in the House. When, however, its harmless character was shown by the overwhelming majority which the administration at all times controlled, Randolph turned to intrigues by which he hoped to defeat one of the President's cherished plans. Early in 1805, Jefferson, had made known his intention of retiring at the end of his second term, and it was understood that he favored Madison as his successor. Randolph had a profound contempt for Madison, and he immediately took up Monroe, then at Madrid, as an opposition candidate. He wrote Monroe letters couched in terms of most arrant flattery. Monroe, however, was too cautious to antagonize the President; and all Randolph's communications were made known to Jefferson. While Jefferson did not fear Randolph alone, he would have feared Randolph if aided by Monroe; and his letters to Monroe cautioned him to be wary of Randolph. Thus there was forced upon the President a course of petty intrigue to which he had been a stranger during his first administration.

An event now occurred which inflamed the country's irritation against England. British warships had for months been cruising around the ports of the United States, stopping coasters, seizing merchant-men, searching all ships for deserters, and impressing citizens of the United States. All these indignities had been tamely borne, but in April, 1806, an outrage was perpetrated which could not be overlooked. A warship, the *Lean-der*, without provocation fired into a coasting vessel off Sandy

